Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Social Services

1990-91

MINISTER'S TRANSMITTAL

Minister of Social Services

SASKATCHEWAN

Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3
(306) 787-3661

Her Honour
The Honourable Sylvia O. Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

May it please Your Honour:

I hereby submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1991.

Janice MacKinnon
Minister of
Social Services

92-05045/

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MISSION AND MANDATE

Our Mission

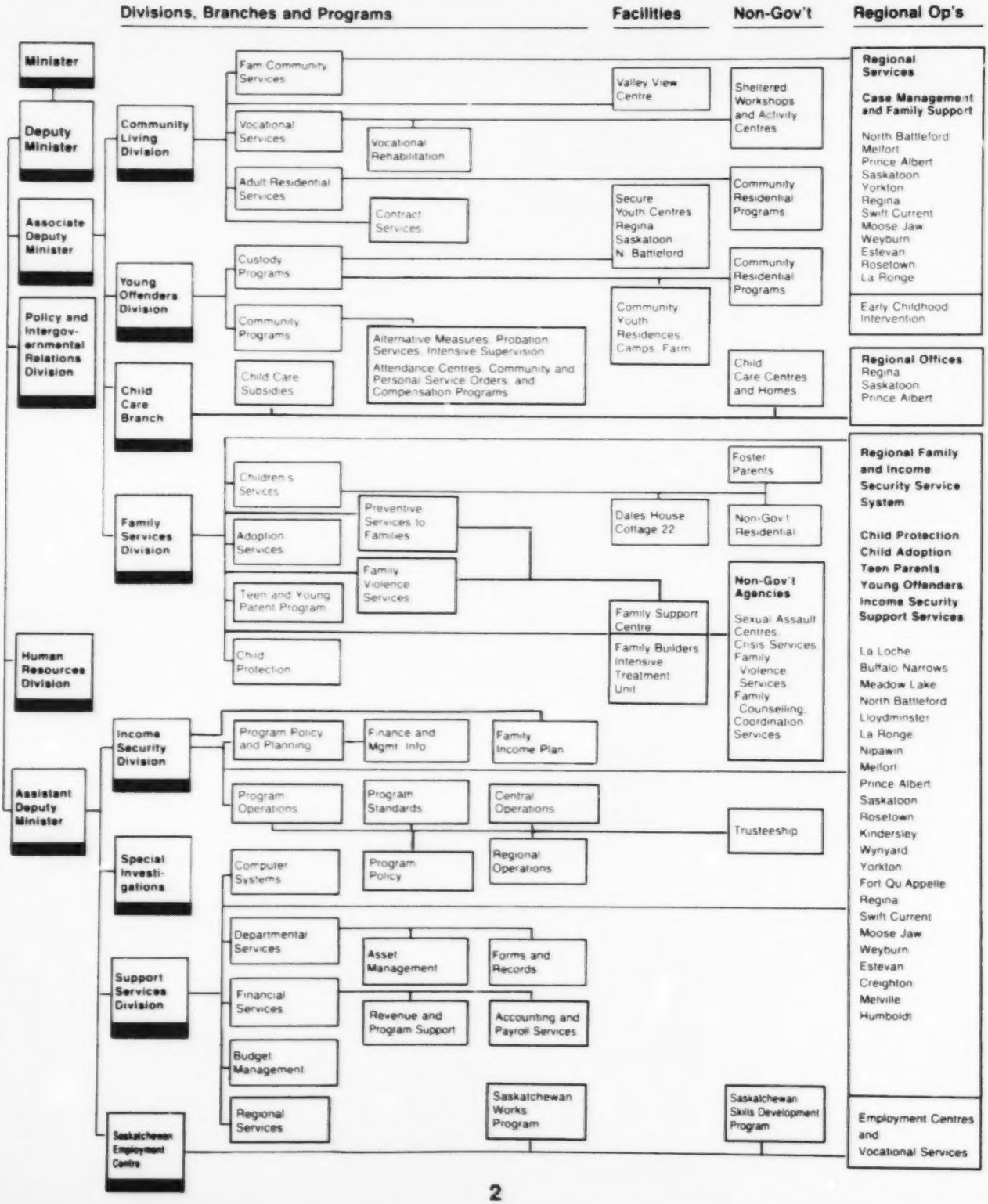
The **mission** of Saskatchewan Social Services is to foster independence of people in need through competent and caring service.

Our Mandate

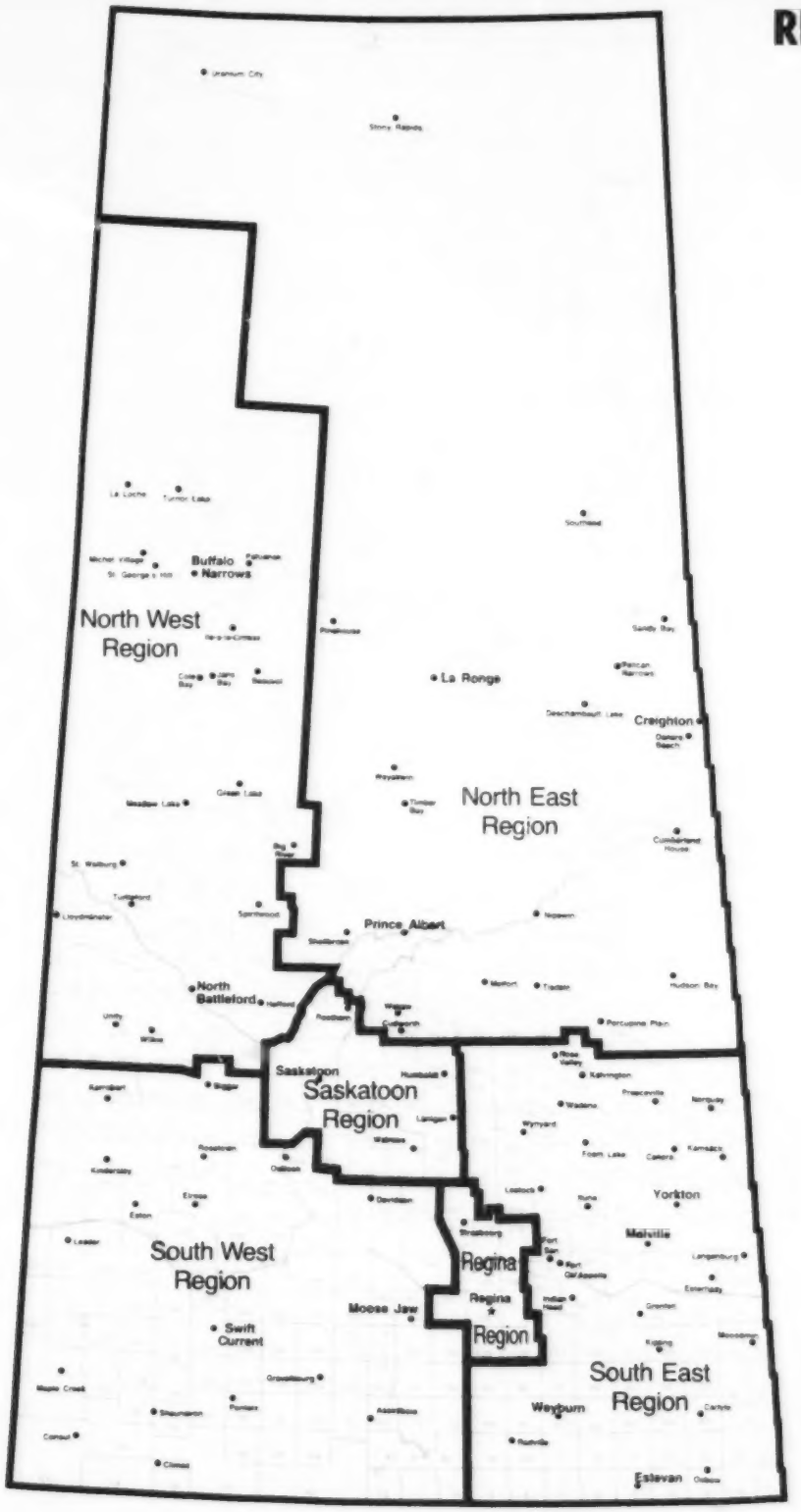
The **mandate** of Saskatchewan Social Services is to:

- provide financial assistance and related support services to, and promote the self-reliance of, people who cannot maintain their independence;
- protect children against abuse, neglect, and abandonment;
- provide substitute care for children, youth, and families in need;
- provide residential, community, and custodial services for youth in conflict with the law; and,
- promote independent living for persons with mental and physical disabilities.

ORGANIZATION



REGIONS


North West Region
North East Region
Saskatoon Region
South West Region
Regina Region
South East Region
Buffalo Narrows
La Ronge
Creighton
Prince Albert
North Battleford
Saskatoon
Moose Jaw
Swift Current
Regina
Yorkton
Melville
Weyburn
Estevan

SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES

REGINA REGION

Central Office:
1920 Broad Street 787-3578
South Office:
2240 Albert Street 787-3700
North Office:
155 Albert Street North 787-3531
Family Builders:
2020 Halifax Street 787-9613

SASKATOON REGION

First Avenue:
145 - 1st Avenue North 933-7802
Sturdy Stone:
122 - 3rd Avenue North 933-5960
Family Support Centre:
315 Avenue M South 933-7751
Humboldt:
905 - 5th Avenue 682-2088

SOUTH WEST REGION

Kindersley:
113 - 2nd Avenue East 463-2033
Moose Jaw:
36 Athabasca Street West 694-3647
110 Ominica Street West 694-3800
Rosetown:
122- 2nd Avenue West 882-5400
Swift Current:
350 Cheadle Street West 778-8219

SOUTH EAST REGION

Estevan:
1219 5th Street 634-0730
Fort Qu'Appelle:
177 Seqwun Avenue South 332-3260
Melville:
256 2nd Avenue West 728-3777
Weyburn:
110 Souris Avenue N.E. 848-2404
Wynyard:
230 Bosworth Street 554-2577
Yorkton:
72 Smith Street East 786-1300

NORTH WEST REGION

Buffalo Narrows:
Waite Street 235-4312
LaLoche:
LaLoche Avenue 822-2238
Lloydminster:
4815 - 50th Street 825-6410
Meadow Lake:
201 - 2nd Street West 236-7500
North Battleford:
405-1146-102nd Street 446-7721

NORTH EAST REGION

Creighton:
1st Street East 688-3487
LaRonge:
1320 LaRonge Avenue 425-4544
Melfort:
107 Crawford Street East . . . 752-6100
Nipawin:
210 - 1st Street East 862-1700
Prince Albert:
800 Central Avenue 953-2345

YOUTH FACILITIES

Creighton Youth Residence:
Box 118 688-7569
Kenosee Youth Camp:
Box 699 Carlyle 577-2300
Kilburn Hall:
1302 Kilburn Avenue
Saskatoon 933-5510
North Battleford Youth Centre:
Box 1447 446-7820
Paul Dojack Youth Centre:
Ritter Avenue & Toothill Regina 787-3561
Prince Albert Youth Camp:
Box 3003 953-3181
Yarrow Youth Farm:
C/O 122 - 3rd Avenue North
Saskatoon 933-7259

COMMUNITY LIVING FACILITIES

Community Living Residences:
1302 13th St. W. 763-5100
1304 13th St. W. 763-5115
947 7th St. E. 922-2411
949 7th St. E. 922-6811
Prince Albert
Valley View Centre:
Box 1300 Moose Jaw 694-3000

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

* **The Child Care Act**, **The Child and Family Services Act**, and **The Adoption Act** were proclaimed on December 1, 1990.

* A 12-space infant care centre was approved for Carlton Comprehensive High School in Prince Albert.

* The Family Builders project was initiated in Regina, providing intensive, in-home, short-term support to families needing to improve parenting skills.

* A Family Sexual Abuse Treatment Program was established in Regina, aimed at providing therapy and support to all members in families where abuse has occurred.

* The department funded Child Counsellors in family violence shelters in Regina (3) and Saskatoon.

* The department initiated development of a Risk Assessment Training package for all child protection workers. Training will begin early in 1992.

* A toll-free line was set up in February 1991 to recruit foster families.

* The department assisted 23 Saskatchewan families to adopt 32 Romanian children.

* The Community Living Plan, initiated in 1987 and aimed at moving people with mental handicaps from institutions into the community, has enabled in excess of 145 additional residents of Valley View Centre to relocate to communities throughout Saskatchewan.

* In June 1990, social assistance rates were increased $10 per child. The maximum allowances for shelter and utilities were each increased by $10 in July 1990.

* In conjunction with local service agencies, a program which provided free smoke detectors to social assistance recipients was launched in January 1991.

* To assist social assistance recipients with budgeting, the department developed an option for benefits to be directly deposited into bank accounts.

* Thirteen Saskatchewan Employment Centres were established across the province bringing all department employment related services for social assistance recipients together.

* A one year extension of the Canada/Saskatchewan Accord on Employability Enhancement for Social Assistance Recipients was successfully negotiated.

* For the fourth consecutive year, the department concluded the year within its approved budget.

* Actions were taken to increase and strengthen the community options available to people with mental or physical disabilities. This resulted in the development of seven new group homes and the replacement and upgrading of six established homes.

CHILD CARE

The Child Care Branch administers the provincial child care program. The Branch licenses child/day care centres and family child care homes. All centres and homes must meet the requirements and standards as established within **The Child Care Act** and Regulations. The Branch monitors and provides support to all licensed facilities.

There are two basic types of licensed child care for parents to choose from:

- Licensed Child/Day Care Centres may care for up to 90 children in group settings. Care is provided for children from 6 weeks to 12 years of age.

- Family Child Care Homes are operated by private individuals in their homes. Homes are licensed to care for up to 8 children from 6 weeks to 12 years of age.

There was a total of 5,994 licensed and approved child care spaces as of March 31, 1991. This represents an increase of 194 spaces since March 1990.

Highlights

- During the year, there were 95 centres licensed for a total of 3,840 spaces with 3,973 children attending. There were also 359 approved homes providing care to approximately 1,990 children.

- Two new child care centres were developed in Saskatoon: Lutheran Sunset Child Care Centre, a 40 space child care service located in a low income housing complex; and, Borden Place Child Care Centre, located in a low income rental apartment complex in the Confederation Park area.

- In addition to the new family child care home development, homes were also developed to replace homes that closed due to regular turnover in the program. Development and expansion of child care spaces continued.

- The priorities for both new development and expansion of existing facilities continued to be rural child care, infant care, school-age care, and child care for special needs children.

The Branch administers the Child Care Subsidy Program which provides financial assistance to help low income families pay child care costs. This Program is available to parents who are eligible based on an income test and who are attending an educational/training program or are employed. Approximately 75 percent of all licensed child care spaces are utilized by parents receiving subsidy, with 88 percent of all subsidies paid to single parent families.
In 1990-91, 3,958 families received an average of $215 per month in subsidy to assist with child care expenses.

The Branch also administers various grants to centres and homes to assist with start-up and operational costs. Grants are also available to assist with placing special needs children in child care facilities.

A new funding model for infant care centres for teen parents was developed through co-operation between government departments and school boards. The Departments of Education and Social Services, in partnership with school boards, have worked towards a child care service which will assist young mothers to complete their education while providing the support essential to their learning parenting and life skills.

The Child Care Act and Regulations were proclaimed in December 1990. The previous child care system limited the number of licensed child care spaces available to the public because licensing was linked to funding. Separating licensing and funding allowed the number of spaces to increase based on demand, rather than on the availability of funding. The new legislation allowed for expansion of new services accommodating infants, school-age children, and children with special needs, and, for enhanced parental choice and accessibility.

The Act:

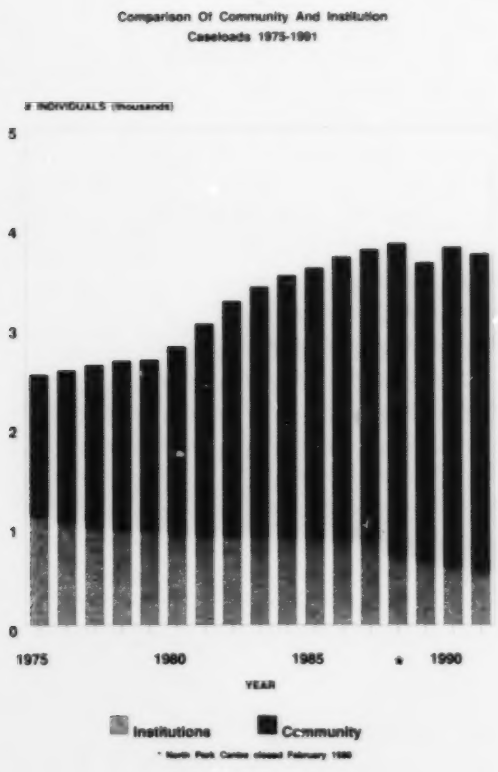
- requires, for the first time, that all centres be licensed;
- provides for the development of regulations relating to licensing standards, grants, and subsidies;
- introduces greater flexibility enabling centres to be operated by a broader range of organizations and individuals; and,
- enhances creativity by allowing the development of innovative services to meet unique child care needs.

COMMUNITY LIVING

The Division is responsible for providing and facilitating community-based services and support to assist people with mental or physical disabilities to live and work as independently as possible within their own communities.

The "Community Living Plan"

In May 1987, the Community Living Plan was announced. Committed to the principle of normalization, the Plan was to limit institutional placements and return as many people as possible living in institutions to their communities.



In the first three phases of the initiative, over 250 people have relocated in communities throughout Saskatchewan. There has been a steady change between institutional and community caseloads.

Seven new group homes were developed and six existing homes were replaced or upgraded during 1990-91 to increase and strengthen the community options available.

Social Work

Community Living Division social work staff provided support to individuals, families, private-service home operators, and non-government agencies through:

- individual assessment, planning, and case management;
- general consultation;
- support to community boards; and,
- staff training.

Social work staff are located in Prince Albert, Melfort, La Ronge, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Rosetown, Regina, Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Moose Jaw.

Community Therapy

Two community therapists in each of the three Community Living districts provided:

- consultation and program support to individuals and agencies; and,
- workshops on behaviourial and developmental programming for both government and non-government staff.

Family Support Programs

Family support services helped parents and their children through the initial adjustment to disabilities to:

- diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning caused by a disability;
- assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model for pre-school and school-aged children; and,
- assist families in making appropriate planning decisions about educational, housing, and life-style issues at appropriate times during development.

Respite services were provided by Resource Homes in Saskatoon and Regina and through designated group homes throughout the province where respite beds have been made available. Families who did not have access to these homes were able to use the Outreach Program for respite services.

The Department made limited use of the preventive services provision of The Child and Family Services Act to provide services in the parental homes of children with severe disabilities, particularly where there was a possibility of children coming into care.

Contract Services Branch

The management of grants administration to all non-governmental organizations which are mandated, supplementary, or complementary to the Department's services has been consolidated into one branch. Nine Community Program Consultants support fiscal accountability and sound internal management in these organizations.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

The Early Childhood Intervention Program provided home-based training and support to parents of children from birth to five years of age with developmental disabilities. This Program was delivered through regular home visits. It helped families and prevented children coming into care. The program was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards. Some local funding supplemented the related costs.

A provincial council provided an effective forum for the discussion of ideas.

Residential Services for Adults

The primary objective in providing residential services for adults with mental or physical disabilities is to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the least restrictive setting possible in each case.

- **Group homes** located in 34 communities accommodated 587 adults with mental disabilities. Fifty-two adults with physical disabilities resided in six group homes.
- **Approved Private-service Homes** provided the care appropriate to meet individual client needs. There were approximately 270 homes throughout Saskatchewan licensed for over 700 spaces.
- The Department also funded a **Private-service Home Holiday Relief** program which enabled operators to arrange for relief staff for purposes of annual or emergency leave.
- The **Supportive Living Program** provided the necessary support services to enable adults with mental disabilities to reside in their own homes or apartments. There was a total of 168 spaces available within 22 Saskatchewan communities.
- The **Supported Apartment Living Program** provided an alternative for those who needed more than supportive living but less than a group home.
- Houston Heights, Regina, received a grant to provide **attendant care services** for 18 individuals.

Residential Placements for Children

Residential placements for children were used only as a last resort. There were spaces available in foster homes, group homes, and in some small hospitals.

Institutional Services

Phase 1 of the Community Living Plan, the closure of North Park Centre, was completed February 28, 1988. Most residents were relocated in community living arrangements. Some residents were transferred to Valley View Centre, which continues to provide supervisory, medical, and nursing care.

Subsequent phases of the Plan have been implemented and have enabled in excess of 145 additional residents of Valley View Centre to relocate in communities throughout Saskatchewan.

Valley View Centre

As of March 31, 1991, 535 individuals continued to reside at Valley View Centre.

Facility renovations continued throughout 1990-91 and resulted in several residential units being modified to meet current fire safety standards and to provide the residents with semi-private rooms, centralized air conditioning, and increased handicapped accessibility.

Increased emphasis was placed on behavioral/developmental training and two staff positions were added to the cottage training program.

Activity Centres

Twenty-three locally operated activity centres provided vocational day programs for 944 adults with limited motor and sensory development. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization, and recreation.

Funding for activity centres was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Sheltered Workshops

Twenty-seven sheltered workshops provided specialized training opportunities for 1,037 adults. This program focused on training and production. Clients developed work and social skills until they were able either to reach their potential level of independence or obtain competitive employment. A portion of the profit realized by workshops was returned to clients.

Sheltered workshop funding was cost-shared with the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement.

Chip and Dale Inc. in Regina received funding to provide a vocational program for three individuals with autism.

Activity Programs

As part of the Community Living Plan, a number of new day activity programs were developed. These programs provided activities which range from full-time, centre-based activities to integration of seniors into existing senior citizens' programs.

Long-term Employment Programs

Positions were funded to ensure ongoing employment for persons with disabilities. Support services such as job coaching or wage subsidy initiatives were provided.

Vocational Rehabilitation Services

The Province undertook to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program within the framework of the federal-provincial Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement. This involved provisions for assessment, counselling, and restoration services, as well as vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

The provincial coordinator chairs a Training-Selection Committee which meets regularly to review and determine eligibility of potential clients referred by many agencies. The Departments of Education and Social Services are represented on this Committee. Referrals to this Committee are made by provincial government departments and community agencies representing the target groups of the program.

A total of 1,046 applications were approved under the program during the year.

Vocational Rehabilitation Assessments

Educational	17
Learning Disability	50
Psychological (Private)	2
Vocational - S.A.C.*	155
Vocational - Wascana Rehabilitation Centre	11
Work Assessments	50
Other	8

Vocational Rehabilitation Job Readiness Training

Adjustment To Blindness	13
Adult Basic Education	92
Basic Skills Training	45
Driver Training	13
Life Skills Course	50
Tutoring (Radius)	27
Vocational Training	15
Work Experience - SAC*	34
Work Preparation - SAC*	42
Other	2

Vocational Rehabilitation Post-Secondary Training

Business College	8
Correspondence Course	4
Community College - Saskatchewan	9
Community College- (out-of-province)	4
Compu-College-Saskatchewan	7
SIAST - Kelsey Campus	13
SIAST - Palliser Campus	15
SIAST - Wascana Campus	23
SIAST - Woodland Campus	15
Institute - out-of-province	2
University of Regina	32
University of Saskatchewan	63
University - out-of-province	9
Other	15

* Saskatchewan Abilities Council

Vocational Rehabilitation Special Services

Computers	26
Drugs	19
Interpreter Services	11
Medical Restoration	12
Mobility/Communication Equipment	20
Renovations	1
Special Equipment and Tools	31
Special Transportation	4
Tutoring (Individual Instruction)	28
Other	78

Vocational Rehabilitation Training On The Job

Private Trades	2
Training-on-the-Job	19
Other	1

Vocational Rehabilitation Breakdown Of Disabilities

Allergies	1
Amputee	4
Arthritis	19
Back/Hip/Neck Injury	29
Blind/Deaf	2
Cerebral Palsy	45
Diabetes	9
Epilepsy	17
Head Injury	47
Hearing Impairment	136
Learning Disabilities	108
Mental Retardation	199
Mobility Disabilities	47
Multiple Sclerosis	17
Muscular Dystrophy	5
Psychiatric Disabilities	123
Substance Abuse	14
Visual Impairment	80
Other Physical Disabilities	190

EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING

In January 1991, 13 Saskatchewan Employment Centres were created across the province. The Centres assumed responsibility for all training and employment opportunities offered by the Department.

The creation of these centres also brought about two new programs: Independence Planning Workshops to counsel clients in options in their pursuit of independence; and, Job Resource Offices providing direct job referrals to clients.

The Saskatchewan Employment Centres continued to provide regional referral services to the Saskatchewan Works Program, the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program, the Job Search Training Program, and the New Careers Corporation, as well as other employment, training, and educational programming.

Saskatchewan Works

The Saskatchewan Employment Centres continued administration of the Saskatchewan Works Program during the year.

The Saskatchewan Works Program served as a means of providing productive employment opportunities for persons receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Its purpose was to provide them with work experience and job-related skills, and to facilitate their continuing participation in the work force. Saskatchewan business, local government, and non-profit employers, whose projects were approved under the Program, were eligible for subsidies up to the provincial minimum wage with related employee benefits.

To qualify for funding, employers had to demonstrate that:

- the work created was employment which would not have existed without program support;
- meaningful work experience and job-related skills would be provided;
- projects would provide between 20 and 26 weeks of full-time, continuous employment; and,
- projects would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

The Centres operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to administer this Program. Clients were referred to employers by program consultants.

During 1990-91, approximately 1,000 new jobs were created. In addition, 460 work placements were created for multi-barriered clients through Work Preparation Centres across the province. Close to 1,600 clients received work experience through the Saskatchewan Works Program.

New Careers Corporation

An additional 205 clients were hired under the New Careers Corporation, with the majority carrying out activities contracted through the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

In co-operation with the Department of Education, clients were referred to a wide range of classes in adult basic education and pre-employment skills development offered through the community college and technical institute systems.

Approximately 2,400 students enroled in one or more classes under this program. Of these, approximately 75 percent were enroled in Adult Basic Education or technical vocational programs. The remaining 25 percent were enroled in community-based programs such as career planning, employment readiness, and life skills courses.

FAMILY SERVICES

The Family Services Division provides child protection services, family support services, teen and young parent support services, services to children in care, and adoption services. These services are delivered primarily through the Department's province-wide network of regional and district offices.

Through a number of non-government agencies funded by the Department, the Division also provides assistance to victims of family violence, a variety of family counselling and support services, and preventative services.

In the last decade, disclosure of childhood sexual abuse and family violence has increased dramatically. So too has professional knowledge about the extent and long term impacts of violence and sexual abuse. As a result, the Family Services Division has had to deal with an increasingly complex caseload.

With the proclamation of **The Child and Family Services Act** and **The Adoption Act** in December, 1990 and the implementation of the first phase of foster care training, 1990-91 saw the culmination of work begun in the mid and late 1980s with the Child in Care Review, the Legislation Review, and extensive consultations on new legislation. This work has laid the foundations for the next phase of the Division's work, which places a greater focus on programming which is integrated, multi-disciplinary, and emphasizes preventative and remedial approaches.

Highlights

- **The Child and Family Services Act** and **The Adoption Act** were proclaimed on December 1, 1990. The Acts strengthen the Division's ability to protect children and support families. A comprehensive training package on the new legislation was developed and delivered to department staff, non-government agencies, medical and justice professionals, and other concerned professionals.

- An Evaluation of Child Abuse Investigation Protocols was undertaken. Protocols were first introduced in 1987. A study of their implementation and impact was conducted in Regina and North Battleford. The study concluded that protocols work well only when all relevant information is made available to all the professionals involved in the investigation, assessment, and treatment of the child and family. The Department is working particularly closely with health-care professionals to improve their systems for identifying children at risk and tracking their families.

- The Family Builders project was initiated in Regina. Family Builders provides intensive, in-home, short-term support to families with complex problems, to enable effective parenting.

- The Regina Family Sexual Abuse Treatment Program was another new and innovative project aimed at providing support and therapy to all members of families in which child sexual abuse has occurred.

- Child Counsellors were funded in family violence shelters in Regina and Saskatoon. Child counsellors are valuable in working with children who may have been abused and who may grow up to repeat the cycle of violence.

- School-based programs placed Department workers in vulnerable inner city areas in Saskatoon and Regina. Workers in four schools provided support to disadvantaged parents, using a community development/self-help approach.

- Development of an unique Risk Assessment Training package for Department and other child protection workers, began in conjunction with the University of Manitoba. Training of field staff will begin early in 1992.

- With the aid of interpreters, Foster Care Training was delivered in a number of northern communities. This has enabled the expansion of the number of foster homes available in the North and means that northern children who come into care can be placed close to their own families.

- A Toll-Free Foster Families Recruitment Line was established in February, in conjunction with a recruitment campaign launched by the Saskatchewan Foster Families Association and paid for by the Department. The campaign placed a special emphasis on recruiting aboriginal foster families.

The Child and Family Services Act

The Child and Family Services Act was proclaimed in December 1990. The Act strikes the proper balance between the right of the state to protect children and the rights and needs of the family.

The Act:

- clarifies the requirement to report child abuse and neglect occurring within the family, and the penalties for failing to make a report;
- emphasizes family support and keeping families together, where that is a safe plan;
- emphasizes involvement of the extended family and others who have a significant interest in children who may need temporary substitute care; and,
- provides for services to 16 or 17 year olds when requested by the young person, or where extraordinary circumstances exist that warrant intervention to assist the young person.

The Adoption Act

The Adoption Act, also proclaimed in December 1990, recognizes the balance which must be struck between the best interests of children and the needs and rights of birth parents and adoptive parents.

The Act:

- allows the court to determine whether an adoption was in a child's best interests;
- recognizes the rights of birth fathers who acknowledged paternity of the child;
- ensures informed decision-making by birth parents through the requirement of independent advice;
- prohibits a consent to adoption from being taken until the child is at least three days old;
- shortens the period during which the birth parent may revoke his or her consent to 14 days from 30 days; and,
- facilitates openness in adoption.

Preventative Services

With its new legislation in place, Family Services concentrated its efforts on enhancing and expanding its preventative and treatment programs.

The Division continued to work closely with the Family Foundation, which now has the responsibility for delivering the community "Family Forums", first piloted by the Division in 1989.

The Saskatoon Family Support Centre continued to develop community based preventative programs in the areas of support to teen and young families, parenting education, and family violence. The Centre delivered these programs in co-operation with a wide range of community groups, including Boards of Education and non-government agencies.

An "Experienced Mothers" program was developed and delivered in Swift Current and will be extended to a number of communities. Division staff worked with volunteers to provide support and practical advice to teen and young parents.

The Division continued to use fee-for-service and grant funded parent aide services to support families with children at risk, and sponsored a province-wide conference for individuals and agencies providing parent aide services.

Child Protection

Reports of children needing protection were investigated, as prescribed by **The Family Services Act**, and **The Child and Family Services Act**. Cases of child assault by a family member required joint involvement with the police.

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by child protection workers located in regional offices across Saskatchewan. In most cases, children in need of protection either remained in their family setting or were taken into care until the situation was such that they could be returned home. Services were also provided to parents declaring their own need for assistance with serious parenting problems. Voluntary services were emphasized.

In larger cities, after-hour crisis intervention services were provided by non-governmental agencies. Rural coverage was provided by departmental staff and the R.C.M.P.

The Division was involved with the various police services and prosecutors in a coordinated service approach for joint child protection and criminal investigations.

A number of in-home support services provided by the Division or non-governmental agencies were available to help families resolve problems including: home-maker services, parent aide services, parent education or life skills training, emergency babysitting, recreation fees, and assessment, counselling, or therapy.

One thousand, one hundred and eighty-seven cases were investigated, resulting in short-term services being provided, clients being referred elsewhere for service, or a determination that children in the families involved were not in need of protection or referral. There were 2,784 families receiving services at March 31, 1991.

Child Protection - Number of New Families Served - 1990-91

Physical neglect	417
Physical abuse	225
Sexual abuse	213
Emotional abuse	16
Parent/child conflict	343
Family support services (serious parenting difficulties)	651

In cases where children required out of home placement and the parent(s) agreed, the Division sought voluntary agreements rather than initiating court proceedings.

At March 31, 1991, there were 497 voluntary agreements for temporary care between the Minister of Social Services and parents. The children were usually placed in foster homes while problems were resolved.

Children In Care

The Division provided a range of alternative care resources for children and youth away from their families.

Seventy percent of children and youth in the care of the Minister were placed in foster homes. Of the remainder, some lived independently or with relatives, while others received service through specialized treatment homes, group homes, or residential treatment centres. These services were provided through a combination of departmentally operated facilities or through direct funding, grants, or fee-for-service agreements with non-governmental organizations. The intensity of service varied with the needs of the children.

Children in Care by Authority of The Child and Family Services Act, March 31, 1991

Apprehended: matter before the court	848
Section 8: voluntary agreement with parents for care	497
Section 9: agreement for care and service,16 and 17 year olds	123
Temporary Wards: committed to care for one year or less	182
Permanent Wards: committed to care until age of majority	851
Long-term care orders: (New category December 1,1990) committed to care until age of majority, but not available for adoption	6
Section 56: service for previous wards 18 to 21 years so that education might continue	39
Total	**2,546**

Foster parents and other care givers were responsible for the care of children. The Minister of Social Services remained legal guardian and retained responsibility for planning and financial support.

There were 2,546 children in care at March 31, 1991, compared with 2,416 a year earlier. As of March 31, 1991, there were 724 foster homes in Saskatchewan.

A 150-hour skills-based curriculum for therapeutic foster parents was developed, and training will be delivered in the fall of 1991.

Adoption

Where adoption was the plan of choice for children, a variety of adoption services were provided to facilitate permanency planning for children and support for birth parents. Adult adoptees were assisted, through information or search, to achieve a satisfactory understanding of their birth family and/or the circumstances leading to their adoption.

A variety of adoption services were delivered to meet individual child and family needs.

a) Infant Ward Adoptions

Forty-four infants were placed in adoption homes during the year.

b) Special Adoption

Extra effort was extended through the Special Adoption Program to locate parents for children who might otherwise be delayed or overlooked for adoption. The majority of children who were to be adopted were school age, of minority race, or had medical, physical, or emotional disabilities. Seventy-nine children with special needs were placed during the year.

c) Assisted Adoption

Children who are wards of the Minister and who are at risk of not being adopted may qualify for maintenance assistance, special services, and extended health coverage when they are adopted into a family. Thirty-six children are currently receiving services under the program, with an additional 22 in process.

d) International Adoption

One-hundred and ninety-eight international adoption applications were active at year end. A substantial increase in the number of international adoptions was the result of the Romanian Adoption Initiative. In 1990-91, thirty-two Romanian children were adopted by twenty-three Saskatchewan families.

e) Step-Parent Adoption

The Division handled 233 step-parent adoptions during the year.

f) Independent and Third-party Adoptions

A total of 136 independent and third-party adoptions were arranged during 1990-91.

g) Agency Adoption

Christian Counselling Services of Saskatoon placed 24 infants as open adoptions during the year.

Number of Adoption Applications
at March 31, 1991

Status	Infant	Special Needs	Total
Waiting Lists	400	149	549
Under Study	115	140	255
Approved for placement	103	85	188
Totals	618	354	972

Number of Adoptions

Ward Adoption Placements

Infant adoptions		44
Special adoptions:	Infant	16
	Other	63

Non Ward Adoption Orders Issued

Independent and third party adoptions	136
Agency adoptions	24
Step-parent adoptions	233

h) Post Adoption Services

Post adoption services were provided to adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and birth parents.

Services included:

- sharing of background information;
- passive registration where letters and pictures are exchanged through the Adoption Registry;
- search and contact where birth family members are located for exchange of information or contact;
- special search for information needed for diagnosis or treatment of serious medical conditions; and,
- specific documents may be released, such as committal orders to adult adoptees, or consents to birth parents.

Post Adoption Service Requests 1990-91

Non-identifying Information		900
Search and Contact:	Adult Adoptees	223
	Birth Family	245
Total		1368

Post Adoption Searches Completed 1990-91

Reunions completed (mutual request = 40)	99
Birth parent declined contact	33
Requests withdrawn	24
Independent search completed	4
Birth parent deceased	0
Unable to locate birth parent	7
Total	167

Non-Governmental Agencies

The Department's Contract Services Branch, which provided administrative support for all third-party grants during the year, is located in the Community Living Division. The Family Services Division retained program responsibility for a range of grant funded non-governmental organizations contracted to provide services which supplement or complement the Division's mandate.

The services funded by the Department and delivered by non-governmental organizations are listed below.

a) Crisis Intervention

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative, and the Mobile Crisis Services, Regina.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre; the Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre; the Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre; the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line; and, the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

b) Family Violence Services

Services for victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Crisis Centre in Kindersley; the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort; South West Crisis Services in Swift Current; and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton.

Two support groups for battered women, one at the Regina Family Service Bureau, and the other at the Saskatoon Family Service Bureau, received funding from the Department.

Family violence shelter services for battered women and their children were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society; the family shelter in Regina operated by the Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Women's Council of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations; the Saskatoon Interval House; the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association; the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert; the Battlefords Interval House in North Battleford; and Shelwin House, Yorkton Women in Need Inc.

Additional shelter was provided in Regina by the YWCA Isabel Johnson Centre; in La Ronge by the LaRonge Native Women's Inc.; and in Swift Current by South West Crisis Services.

Crisis accommodation was also available through a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis Intervention Centre.

Child counsellors were funded for the first time at the Regina Transition House, the Isabel Johnson Shelter in Regina, the Saskatchewan Treaty Indian Women's Council's Safe Shelter in Regina, and the Saskatoon Interval House.

c) Counselling and Family Supports

Personal counselling and support services were provided by a number of native family service organizations, including the Lestock Women's Centre; the Native Co-ordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert; Buffalo Narrows Native Women; the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in LaLoche; the La Ronge Native Women's Organization (Family Crisis Centre); the Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide); the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians Riel Local of Regina (Parent Aide); and the Peyakowak (They Are Alone) Committee Inc. of Regina.

Family support was provided by family workers in native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, Regina, La Ronge, and Carlyle.

Services for teen and young parents were provided by the Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, Catholic Family Service Society in Regina, the Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, and the Moose Jaw Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw.

All these agencies, as well as Catholic Family Services in Prince Albert, are also funded to provide counselling and family services.

Other counselling and support services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project in Regina; the SCEP Centre Society in Regina; the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children; the Friendship Inn in Saskatoon; Humboldt District No. 44 Home Care Program (Family Counselling Program); SMILE Services Inc. of Estevan; the Merici Centre in Regina; and Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon.

A crisis nursery program was provided by the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children.

d) Prevention

Services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers organizations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan, Lloydminster, Humboldt, Yorkton, and Moose Jaw.

e) Local and Provincial Co-ordination

The Saskatchewan Human Services Association and The Saskatchewan Foster Families Association each provided provincial co-ordination services to their members and member agencies.

INCOME SECURITY

The Income Security Division provides income support services for families and individuals, who for various reasons, including disability, ill health, low income, or unemployment, could not meet their basic needs. Through the Family Income Plan, it also supplemented the financial resources of low-income families with dependent children.

Payments were cost-shared with the Federal Government under the Canada Assistance Plan Act.

Highlights

- In June 1990, rates increased ten dollars per month for all children. The maximum shelter and utility allowances were also increased in July 1990 by ten dollars per month.

- In March 1991, the Department decided not to include the Goods and Services Tax and the Saskatchewan Family Tax Credits as income when calculating benefits for social assistance and Family Income Plan recipients. This decision helped to further increase the total amount of money available to recipients.

- Recipients were offered direct deposit of their benefits to their bank accounts.

- Concerns about the number of injuries and loss of life caused by fires led to the development of a program where social assistance recipients could receive a special allowance for the purchase of a smoke detector.

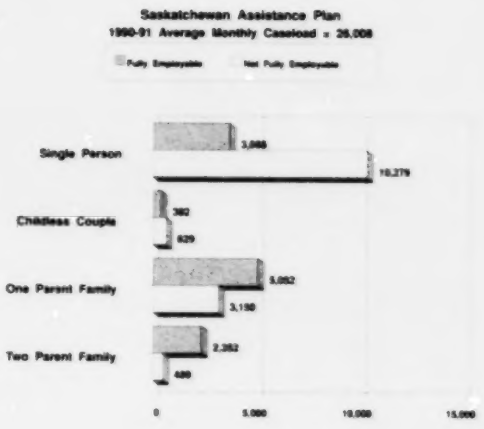
- Client service was improved by implementing a case planning service delivery model, designed to enhance client self-sufficiency and financial independence.

- The training program for financial workers in the Division was expanded to incorporate program and administrative knowledge required by field staff. This was done in recognition that well trained personnel will serve the needs of applicants in a professional, efficient, and caring manner. Workshops were developed by supervisors with the objective of demonstrating different methods of interviewing, case assessment and planning, and workload management. The first presentation of the new training package was held in March 1991.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan provides allowances for food, clothing, shelter, utilities, and required special needs, and nominates recipients for supplementary health benefits. It also provides training and job opportunities to families and individuals on social assistance, who require them.

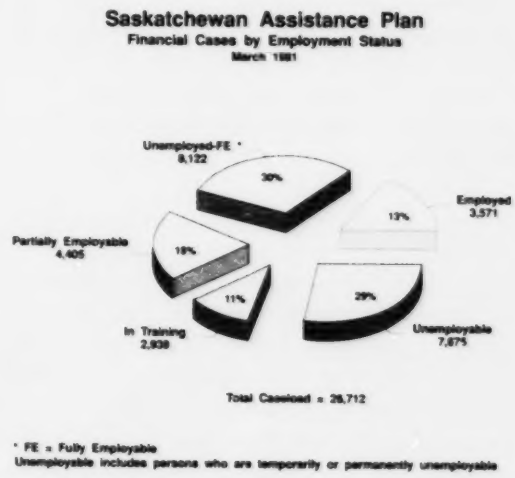
Persons in need could apply for and receive benefits and services at any of the 25 offices in the six regions in the province.



Family Income Plan

The Family Income Plan supplements the financial resources of low-income families with dependent children to assist them in meeting the costs of food, shelter, and other necessities, and to enhance future options and opportunities for children. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets.

At March 31, 1991, there were 5,057 families in Saskatchewan receiving benefits.



YOUNG OFFENDERS

The proclamation of the Young Offenders Act (Canada) in 1984, marked the beginning of a new era for dealing with youth in conflict with the law. The legislation attempts to balance the preservation of individual rights and freedoms with the protection of society. These changes have had a significant impact on the way services are provided to youth in Saskatchewan.

The Act established that youth between the ages of 12 and 17 who commit offences should be held responsible and accountable for their actions; however, it also recognized that they have special needs and require guidance and assistance.

Youth are guaranteed the same rights and freedoms as adults, including those in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Canadian Bill of Rights. Youth who break the law are also guaranteed special rights under the Young Offenders Act (Canada). Young people who offend may be dealt with outside the formal court process so long as society is protected. The Act also acknowledges that parents are responsible for the supervision of their children.

The Young Offenders Program

Saskatchewan's Young Offenders Program reflects the philosophy of the Young Offenders Act (Canada) by providing a balance between the protection of society and the rights and needs of youth. The program addresses the special needs of youth through guidance, counselling, encouragement of family involvement, community participation, and educational and employment opportunities, while ensuring that youth are held accountable through supervision and appropriate use of custody.

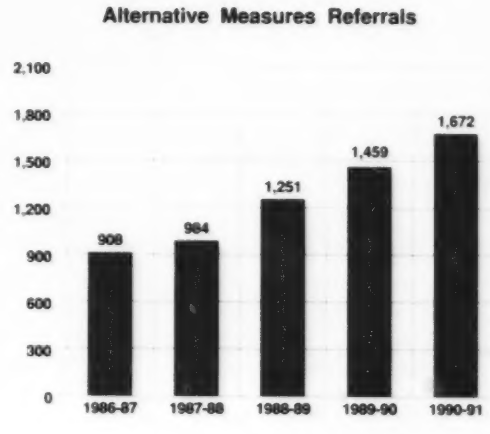
The program reinforces the importance of protecting society by providing for supervision and by assisting youth in dealing with personal issues that lead to conflict with the law. In addition, the community is encouraged to become an active partner in the prevention of crime and the rehabilitation of youth who break the law.

Alternative Measures

The Alternative Measures Program provides an alternative to formal court proceedings for young persons alleged to have committed an offence. It is a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable, that allows a young person, the victim, and the community to arrive at a voluntary and acceptable settlement with respect to an offence. The Program assists young persons to accept responsibility for their illegal behaviour, and to understand how they have interfered with the rights of another person or their community.

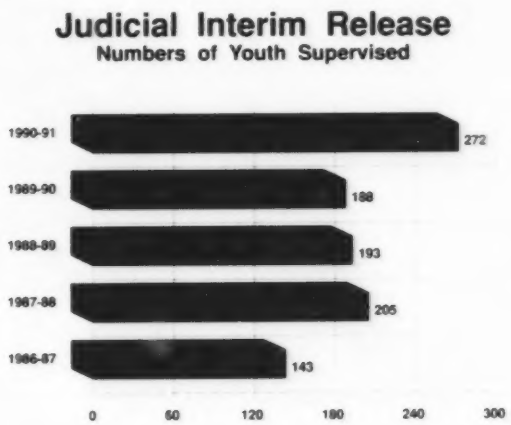
In 1990-91, StopLift became a component of the Alternative Measures Program in Regina and Saskatoon. StopLift is an educational program designed to teach youth about the consequences of shoplifting and its affect on society and individuals.

Over the past 5 years referrals to alternative measures programs have increased by 80 per cent.

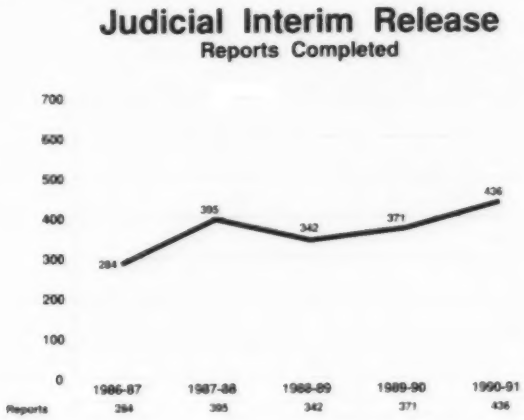


Judicial Interim Release

When a youth has been placed in detention, the Young Offenders Act (Canada) provides that a Youth Court Judge or Justice may release a young person prior to disposition rather than remanding that offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release.



Youth workers provide background information and assessments on young persons to the court to identify the availability of appropriate residential resources and responsible adults willing and able to provide supervision to the youth if released.



Probation Services

In accordance with the provisions of the Young Offenders Act (Canada), the duties of Community Youth Workers include supervising youth bound by Probation Orders, preparing and presenting pre-disposition and progress reports as required by the Youth Court, and such other duties as the Provincial Director requires.

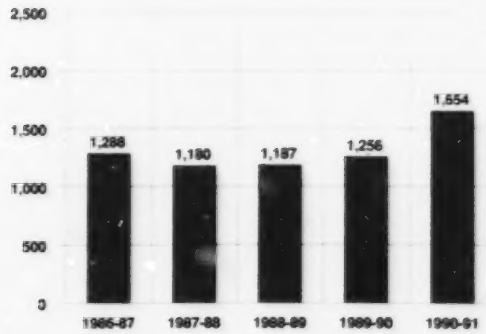
These duties and services are provided to all Youth Courts and communities throughout the province. There were approximately 1,610 active probation cases on any given day during the 1990-91 fiscal year.

Community Alternative Dispositions

Community Alternative Dispositions are orders that the Youth Court may make as alternatives to probation and custody. They include Community Services Orders, Personal Service Orders, and Orders for Compensation.

Community Alternative Services

Numbers of Service Orders



Community Alternative Dispositions provide youth found guilty of an offence with the opportunity to reimburse the victim and to understand and accept that there are consequences for unlawful behaviour. Where there is no identifiable victim, a community disposition may require a youth to participate in some meaningful work for the community.

During 1990-91, there were 1,654 Community and Personal Service Orders referred to the Program and $88,030 was re-paid through Compensation Orders.

Community Alternative Services

Numbers of Compensation Orders/Dollars

Year	Orders	Dollars
1990-91	450	$88,030
1989-90	386	$72,817
1988-89	402	$62,706
1987-88	384	$53,862
1986-87	360	$50,000

Intensive Intervention

The Intensive Intervention Program provides for increased supervision of youth who might otherwise remain in custody or commit additional offences. The Program is made up of three separate components:

a) Day Programs;
b) Support Services; and
c) Intensive Supervision

a) Day Programs

Day Programs are a structured community-based alternative to custody for youth considered at high risk to re-offend.

Services endeavour to foster normal adolescent development by providing participants with opportunities to improve their interpersonal and lifeskills, acquire employment training and experience, and obtain further academic or vocational training in order that they can function more successfully within the community.

During 1990-91, the Department sponsored the following Day Programs:

- A program in downtown Saskatoon at the Egadz Youth Centre designed to assist 12-15 year olds to return to school;
- The "Next Step" Program in Regina which provides 16-17 year olds with opportunities to develop work, interpersonal and life skills, and utilize subsidized job placements to prepare youth for permanent employment;
- Programs for 16-17 year olds in Prince Albert and Moose Jaw operated by the John Howard Society which assists them to enhance their interpersonal and job skills;
- A woodcutting project in North Battleford to provide 12-17 year olds with the opportunity to earn money to pay fines and compensation while acquiring work experience and improved interpersonal and life skills.

In addition, short-term pilot projects operated successfully in Saskatoon and on the Mosquito Reserve.

b) Support Services

The Support Services Program provides supervised educational and recreational activities to help youth at risk of re-offending or becoming further involved in the youth justice system.

c) Intensive Supervision

Intensive Supervision provides increased supervision to youth who, without this level of involvement, would be committed to or would remain in custody. The level of supervision provided depends on how much supervision the youth requires to prevent re-offending.

Attendance Programs

Attendance Programs refer to a disposition within probation supervision whereby youth may be required to attend a specific facility or program tailored to their needs. Services provided include counselling, life skills development, and specific kinds of training, information, and/or education.

Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina accepted 44 referrals during the year into its Attendance Program.

Attendance Referrals
Rainbow Youth Centre

Open Custody

Open Custody is defined in the Young Offenders Act (Canada) as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp, or any other like place or facility".

In the Open Custody Program, youth are encouraged to attend community schools, to obtain local employment, and to participate in recreation programs (the open component). Youth live in a supervised residential environment (the custody component).

Open custody was provided during 1990-91 by Dales House in Regina, Kilburn Hall and Yarrow Youth Farm in Saskatoon, the Community Youth Residence in Creighton, the Youth Cottage in North Battleford, and Youth Camps in Kenosee and Prince Albert. The Oskietawin Group Home in Sandy Bay, the Alex Bishop Group Home in Green Lake, and the House of Concord in Regina (non-government operated facilities), also provided open custody services.

The **Community Homes Program** is a network of 37 private homes which have been designated as places of open custody. These homes are in various locations across the province, including urban centres, farms, small towns,Indian reserves, and the far north.

Community homes complement the more traditional open custody residential programs. They also provide Judicial Interim Release services to youth who would otherwise be detained in police cells or a secure facility pending a court appearance.

Community homes give youth workers the option of placing a young person in a resource close to their home community. Native operators of community homes are actively recruited, particularly in the northern part of the province. Over half of the home operators are native.

During 1990-91, the average daily count of young persons in open custody was 142, including Community Homes open custody placements.

Secure Custody

Under the terms of the Young Offenders Act (Canada), secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province for the secure containment or restraint of young persons".

Secure custody facilities are designed to contain the young person in a supportive, developmental environment where control can be achieved by close supervision.

Police detention and court remand spaces are part of each secure custody facility. Detention and remand spaces are required for holding certain youth until a first court appearance, or until court adjudication and sentencing is complete.

During the year, the Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina, Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon, and the North Battleford Youth Centre provided secure custody, remand, and detention services for offenders. In 1990-91 the average daily count of young persons in secure custody was 119, and the average daily count in remand and detention was 52 youths.

Average Daily Custody Counts

Year	Secure	Remand	Open	Totals
1990-91	119	52	142	313
1989-90	125	39	127	291
1988-89	130	35	132	297
1987-88	134	40	145	319
1986-87	104	43	120	267
1985-86	74	42	78	194

REGIONAL SERVICES

Teen and Young Parent Support Services

The Department provided information, referral, counselling, and other pre- and post-natal support services to young, prospective, and single parents, to foster informed decisions about the future of their children. Involvement of fathers and grandparents was encouraged. Outreach services provided included pregnancy counselling, parenting skills, life skills, and vocational and educational counselling.

Relinquishment services, through Court or document committals, were provided to parents who decided to place their children for adoption. The Department then made arrangements for adoption placement for these children.

Services were provided to young parents who decided to parent their children. These included: individual counselling; group meetings to teach specific parenting skills regarding the developmental needs of infants; and, counselling with respect to budgets, education, and employment.

Where the support of extended families was lacking, teen parents were often matched with volunteers for support. The volunteer service was run by the five Family Service agencies in Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw, and through the Experienced Mothers project in Swift Current.

Child Protection

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by regional child protection workers. To reduce risk to children and prevent their coming into care, workers provided family assessment, counselling, referral, or arranged for parent aide services, home making, and transportation services.

Children in Care

Children and youth who could not be cared for by their families were taken into the Minister's care and placed in foster homes. The Department retained overall responsibility for maintenance and care arrangements, while foster parents provided day-to-day care.

Children's services workers provided counselling, referral, and other support services for both children and foster parents. Emphasis was on foster parent training.

For children with special needs, such as physical or mental disabilities or emotional disturbance, the Department provided specialized services and facilitated care through alternative department or community-based residential resources.

Adoption

Parents wanting to place children for adoption could receive assistance with decision making and with completing the necessary documents.

Persons wanting to adopt children were assessed through an adoption study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting an adopted child.

Youth

In addition to protection services and residential supports for parents and teens in conflict, support was provided regionally to unmarried teen parents. Extended educational services were provided to youth who had been wards of the Minister.

Regional services for young offenders included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation, community alternatives, intensive supervision, attendance centres, and both open and secure custody.

Community Living

Regional services were available for persons with mental or physical handicaps, depending on personal needs. These services helped adults or children and their parents adjust to disabilities, minimize the affects of handicapping conditions, and make informed decisions about educational, residential, and lifestyle needs.

The Department also assisted community-based, non-governmental service agencies with program design, implementation, and management.

Income Support

People who, for various reasons including disability, ill health, low income, or unemployment could not meet their basis needs could apply for financial assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan.

Assistance was provided to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing, and other needs.

People who qualified for financial benefits also qualified for supplementary health services provided through the Department of Health.

In some cases, clients qualified for only health benefits. Other services such as counselling and referrals were provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

The Family Income Plan supplemented the financial resources of low-income families with dependent children to help them meet the costs of food, shelter, and other necessities, and to improve future options and opportunities for children.

Income support services were provided through the Regional Income Security Offices across the province and the Family Income Plan Central Administration Office in Regina.

Training, Education, and Employment

In addition to income support, vocational service workers provided training, educational, and employment support services. Social assistance clients who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training, and educational and work opportunities to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Regional offices of the Saskatchewan Works Program worked with employers in the non-governmental, municipal, and business sectors to create job opportunities for employable clients.

Emergency Services

The Department's regional offices also assist in times of large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people. Assistance provided would include support for food, clothing, lodging, or other personal services as well as registration and inquiry services. The Department coordinates provision of such assistance with local and provincial emergency measures organizations.

During the year, forest fires required emergency evacuations from the communities of DesCharme Lake, St. George's Hill, Jans Bay and Canoe Narrows.

INTERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Division is responsible for providing advice and direction to the Department on all matters pertaining to human resources management and staff development. It coordinates these functions with the Public Service Commission.

The Division also provides library and resource centre services for all divisions and branches.

The Division is organized into human resources management and staff development units which serve all program areas of the Department. With the exception of staff who are located at Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw providing services to the Community Living Division, all staff are located at Central Office.

Highlights

- A service-wide Personnel Attendance and Leave System (PALS) was implemented in the Department to maintain employee attendance and leave records.
- Management/union negotiated hours of work arrangements for Young Offender Program facilities were implemented.
- Department-wide supervisor training for the new performance leadership process, "Coaching for Results", was completed.
- The Employee Recognition Program provided:

  - the "Deputy Minister's Award" for service "above and beyond the call of duty" to one employee;
  - "Excellence in Service" awards to fifty-nine employees; and,
  - Nine special "Teamwork" awards to fifty-four employees.

- The responsibility for human resources management and staff development for the Community Living Division was consolidated within the Human Resources Division's Valley View Centre office.

Human Resources Management

During the 1990-91 fiscal year, Human Resources Management continued to provide services to the Department in the areas of: staffing and recruitment; position classification; collective bargaining; agreement administration and interpretation; employee benefits administration; personnel policy development, administration and interpretation; employee relations; grievance handling and arbitrations; compensation administration; occupational health and safety; employee counselling and assistance; and, employment equity.

Staff Development

In 1990-91, Staff Development coordinated the formation of individual employee development and training plans; produced and delivered in-house seminars; coordinated employee participation in Public Service Commission and external seminars and training events; administered the tuition fee reimbursement program; assisted in organizing divisional, branch, and regional program conferences; coordinated the employee recognition program, including long service recognition; delivered specific program training in such areas as sexual abuse, drug abuse, and child protection; and, provided library and resource centre services to the department.

POLICY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

Policy and Intergovernmental Relations is responsible for federal-provincial and inter-provincial issues and initiatives. This includes negotiation and administration of federal-provincial cost-sharing agreements, such as the Canada Assistance Plan, Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons, Young Offenders, Criminal Legal Aid, and the Employability Enhancement Accord. Also included are charge-backs to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for services provided to status Indians.

Highlights

- During the year, the Division took a lead role in renegotiating the 1990-91 funding of the Canada/Saskatchewan Accord on Employability Enhancements for Social Assistance Recipients. It also coordinated the Department's efforts to address the issues of: federal offloading (particularly services for status Indians); a new (1991-96) Employment Accord; future cost-sharing arrangements; and, legal decisions which dealt with the recovery of social assistance overpayments.

- The Division provided research and coordinated development of legislation for child care, family services, and adoption programs; published quarterly statistical reports; and, completed operational reviews for several programs. The Division participated in the planning and initial development of a Department Strategic Plan.

- In recognition of the need to address the on-going and newly emerging developments in the broad area of Social Services to aboriginal people, a new position was established in the Division. This position will concentrate on developing strategies and responses to many of these developing issues and proposals.

The Division worked to maximize federal revenue under various cost sharing arrangements and for the provision of social services to status Indians. During the year $184,312,016 was recovered for the Province. Of this, $162,099,010 (88%) was for Saskatchewan Social Services programs and the remainder was for other departments.

The Division provided support for the policy and program development functions of the Department, including planning, research, program design, and evaluation activities.

Research activities by the Division included evaluating child abuse protocols in the province, and a review of families choosing open adoptions. Work continued on a National Health and Welfare funded evaluation of participants in the Saskatchewan Works Program. The Division produced an overview of major social, economic, and demographic trends affecting social programs in the province. The Division prepared and coordinated departmental briefing reports for the Minister's use in legislative sessions.

The Division sought to maximize response to policy direction from government and to help the Department adapt to changing priorities. It promoted clear and consistent policy in all program areas. The Division coordinated the development and implementation of criminal record screening for new applicants wanting to provide foster care or family day care services, for approved private service home operators for persons with disabilities, and for persons wanting to adopt a child.

The Division was responsible for coordinating the Department's legislative program and activities, as well as providing technical and policy expertise on regulatory changes, Cabinet submissions, and Orders-in-Council. It provided a coordinated approach to legislative development within the Department, enabling it to respond effectively to the need for legislative change.

The Division ensured program support through provision of information, research and evaluation services, and ensured linkages for resolution of inter-program, interdepartmental, and inter-governmental issues. It played a central role in formulating the Department's response to the Murray Commission's report on Directions for Health Care in Saskatchewan. In addition, the Division also led a review of all department legislation and programs to determine if any current practises contravened the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child. The Division coordinated and prepared briefings for the interprovincial-territorial and federal-provincial-territorial Ministers and Deputy Ministers forums.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Special Investigations Branch is responsible for investigating suspected criminal abuse of departmental programs and to recommend criminal charges when appropriate.

The branch completed 267 investigations and criminal action was recommended in 208 cases. There were 103 successful prosecutions recorded during the year. Seventy-nine were attributable to the current year.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division provided administrative, financial, and computer systems support to the Department.

Financial Services Branch

This Branch provided financial services to all program divisions of the Department. Ensuring compliance with government financial management policies was a fundamental component of service delivery whether the service was in the area of payroll, vendor payments, collecting accounts receivables, or recording revenues.

In 1990-91, the Branch introduced on-site financial audits of regional offices and facilities. Consulting services were also provided to program divisions to evaluate and strengthen financial systems and procedures.

Major achievements during the year included: the provision of income tax information slips to social assistance recipients; introduction of direct deposit as a payment option for social assistance recipients and non-government organizations; and, the amalgamation of the Valley View payroll unit with the Financial Services Branch payroll unit.

Budget Management Branch

This Branch managed the Department's fiscal planning, forecasting, and controls by preparing the annual budget and monitoring expenditure levels through monthly fiscal forecasts. The Department delivered all programs within the approved budget for the fourth consecutive year.

1990-91 was a year of significant change for the Budget Management Branch. A automated fiscal forecast system was developed and implemented on the Department's local area network. The new forecasting system streamlined and standardized the forecasting procedures and improved the management information available for executive decision making.

Departmental Services Branch

This Branch managed all properties used by the Department, and coordinated space acquisition, renovations, telephones, environmental initiatives, office furniture, and equipment. Branch staff maintained an inventory of departmental assets, managed departmental records, controlled design and acquisition of forms, and provided services such as a centralized stockroom, mail handling, purchasing, and coordination.

During 1990-91, Departmental Services staff coordinated numerous major capital projects including the downsizing of Central Office and the construction of a new regional office building in Moose Jaw.

Computer Systems Branch

This Branch supported and enhanced the many mainframe computer and office automation systems needed to effectively deliver the Department's programs and services.

Accomplishments included: the implementation of an enhanced HELP DESK; improvements to the province-wide communications network; establishment of comprehensive project management services; and, the introduction of branch delivered training programs.

Development of new systems on microcomputers, the installation of local area networks, and the introduction of electronic mail continued to demonstrate the efficiency and usefulness of new technologies.

Regional Support Services

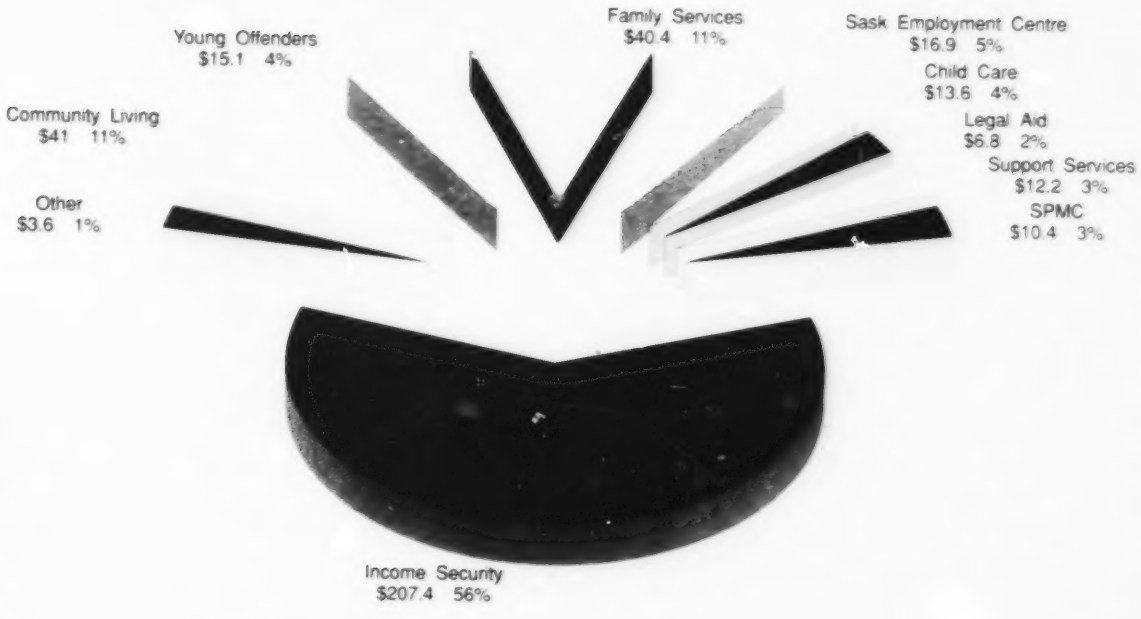
Regional Administration Managers and support staff in the Department's six regions provided administrative, financial, and clerical support to the Department's programs.

Major achievements included: capital renovation and consolidation projects in Saskatoon, Moose Jaw, and Prince Albert; and, the development of facilities for innovative Family Services programs in Regina and Saskatoon.

1990 - 1991 Fiscal Statement
Vote 36: Saskatchewan Social Services Expenditure
(unaudited)

Program Services	
Administration	$ 8,333,314
Income Security	2,502,021
Family Services	3,319, 788
Child Care	1,347,766
Community Living	20,034,576
Young Offenders	11,313,152
Regional Operations	28,503,720
Payments to Saskatchewan Property Management Corporation	10,434,297
TOTAL Program Services	**85,788,634**
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties	
Saskatchewan Works	8,161,362
Grants for Child Care	1,541,302
Grants for Family Services	7,450,797
Grants and Allowances for Community Living	19,302, 192
TOTAL Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties	**36,455,653**
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals	
Saskatchewan Skills Development Program	6,036,393
Allowances for Child Care	10,692,394
Children's Services	24,258,419
Payment to the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission	6,826,500
Members of the Executive Council	36,610
TOTAL Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals	**47,850,316**
Income Security	
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	190,921,338
Family Income Plan	6,400,429
TOTAL Income Security	**197,321,767**
TOTAL SOCIAL SERVICES EXPENDITURE	**$ 367,416,370**

Saskatchewan Social Services
1990-91 Expenditure by Program



Total Expenditure $367.4M (unaudited)